

PRHO No 9 Midland Reg

BOROUGH OF BRIDGNORTH.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Council of the Borough of Bridgnorth.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present to you my Annual Report
for the year 1941.

Public Health Officers of the Authority.

Medical Officer of Health. L.E. Dickson, M.D., (part time).
Sanitary Inspector and Food Inspector. H.H. Thomas, C.R.S.I.
and S.I.E. (Jt. Board)(Whole time).

Sec. A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres.	2,502.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population, mid 1941.	6,042.
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1941, according to the Rate Book.	1,831.
Rateable Value.	£27,336.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£107-5-3.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live Births.	Total.	M.	F.	
Legitimate.	87.	45.	42.)	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the
Illegitimate.	6.	2.	4.)	estimated resident population. 12.4

Still Births.				
Legitimate.	3.	2.	1.)	Rate per 1,000 total live and still
Illegitimate.	1.	-	1.)	births. 41.2

Deaths.	96.	47.	49.	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated
				resident population. 15.8

Deaths from Puerperal Causes. 0.

Infants under 1 year of age	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate.	1.	1	0.
Illegitimate.	0.	0.	0.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All Infants per 1,000 live births.	10.6
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	11.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegit. live births.	0.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	5.
Deaths from Measles. (all ages)	2.
Deaths from Whooping Cough. (all ages)	1.
Deaths from Diarrhoea. (under 2 years of age)	0.

Sec. B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers - see above.
2. (a) Laboratory Facilities - Bacteriological and Pathological examinations are now carried out at the Donaldson-Hudson Pathological Laboratories, Shrewsbury, instead of at Birmingham University and the Emergency Public Health Laboratory.
- (b) Ambulance Facilities. - No change.
- (c) Nursing in the Home - No change.
- (d) Treatment Centres - No change.
- (e) Hospitals - No change.

Sec. C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

A report by your Sanitary Inspector is appended.

Sec. D. HOUSING.

Owing to wartime restrictions, work in connection with housing has been limited to repairs and a few closed houses have been reopened as an emergency measure.

Sec. E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) Milk. No samples were examined at the instance of the Local Authority.
- (b) Meat. Slaughtering of animals is not now carried out in the Borough. Supplies of meat are sent from Wolverhampton and distributed to the butchers in the town. The transporting of meat at first called for criticism but gradually improved.
- (c) Adulteration. No action has been taken in this respect.

Sec. F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diphtheria Immunisation. Provision of artificial immunisation was commenced in the Borough for children of school age and under school age. The services of the local medical practitioner were enlisted. The prophylactic used was A.P.T., which was supplied free of cost from the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Wellington. On December 31, 1941, the number of children who had completed the course were :-

Under 5 years. 78.
Between 5 & 15 years. 609.

Measles. No use has been made of prophylactic serum.

Isolation Hospital. Owing to the resignation on account of illness, by the Matron, Miss Finnigan and the maid, and the difficulty of obtaining a fresh staff, this Hospital was closed in October and remained closed for the rest of the year. I wish to record my appreciation of the work of the Staff for many years and particularly during the difficult period in the present wartime conditions.

Dysentery. Eleven cases of dysentery, due to an infection by Sonne's Bacillus, occurred in Bridgnorth Public Assistance Institution. They were of a mild type and no deaths resulted.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

	Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	3.	3.	0.
Diphtheria.	4.	4.	0.
Enteric Fever.	1.	0.	0.
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1.	0.	0.
Pneumonia.	6.	0.	3.
Acute Poliomyelitis.	1.	0.	0.
Cerebro-spinal Fever.	2.	1.	1.
Erysipelas.	1.	1.	0.
Dysentery.	11.	11.	0.
Whooping Cough.	21.	0.	1.
Measles.	110.	0.	2.

Age Incidence of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases.

Disease.	Age Period.											
	Under											
	1.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	10.	15.	20.	35.	45.	65 & Up.
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.	1.	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	1.	1.	1.	1.	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever.	-	-	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrex.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-	2.	3.
Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal F.	-	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-	1.	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.
Dysentery.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.
Whooping Cough.	-	-	5.	4.	-	10.	-	-	1.	-	-	-
Measles.	2.	6.	8.	5.	10.	65.	7.	1.	3.	-	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1941.

Age Period:	New Cases:			
	Respiratory:		Non-Respiratory:	
	M:	F:	M:	F:
0:	1:	1:	1:	1:
1:	1:	1:	1:	1:
5:	1:	1:	1:	2:
15:	1:	1:	1:	1:
25:	1:	1:	1:	1:
35-45:	1:	1:	1:	1:
45-55:	1:	1:	1:	1:
55-65:	1:	1:	1:	1:
65 & upwards:	1:	1:	1:	1:
Totals.	2.	-	1.	3.

There were
no deaths.

CANCER.

Deaths.
Male. 4.
Female. 1.

Age Period.
55-65. 3.
65-75. 2.

Your obedient Servant,

L. E. DICKSON.
M.O.H,

BOROUGH OF BRIDGNORTH
SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1941

Inspections made.	657.
Cases of Infectious Diseases Investigated.	7.
Number of Premises Disinfected.	9.
Inspections under the Milk & Dairies Orders.	40.
Inspections under the Factories and Petroleum Acts.	85.
Inspections under the Food and Drugs Act.	271.
Samples of Water taken for Examination.	5.
Samples of Milk taken for Examination.	7.

SUPERVISION AND INSPECTION OF FOOD

All meat received into the Borough is slaughtered at the Abattoir, Wolverhampton, under the control of the Ministry of Food. Periodic inspections are made of all Food Premises and generally speaking a satisfactory standard of cleanliness is maintained. The following is a summary of the food examined and found to be unfit.

<u>Meat, Offals etc.</u>	<u>Fish.</u>	<u>Tinned Foods.</u>	<u>Eggs.</u>
2 cwt. 14 lb.	70 lb.	34 tins,	410 dozen.

All foods found to be unfit for food are removed from the premises and destroyed at the Council's destructor.

Sampling of Foods under the Food and Drugs Act is undertaken by the County Authorities.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

During the year 7 samples of milk were taken for Bacteriological Examination. All the premises are regularly inspected and on the whole the conditions are satisfactory.

WATER SAMPLES.

During the year 5 samples were taken for Bacteriological Examination. The source of the samples were the Reservoir, Service taps, and Conduit Supply. The results of analysis show that the water is of a high standard of purity.

HOUSING SURVEY.

No Housing Survey was made during the year and no drastic action was taken with regard to individual unfit houses, owing to the prevailing circumstances.

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT.

The degree of infestation throughout the Town remains very high, in fact compared with the previous year it is definitely worse, and bearing in mind the damage that is being done to foodstuffs etc. I feel that the Council should engage the services of an experienced rat-catcher to assist occupiers of infested property and to advise generally the best means to deal with the trouble.

